



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS ARKANSAS (CGN-41) ✓  
FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO 96660-1168

DECLASSIFIED

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5750  
Ser: 03/052  
19 January 1988

From: Commanding Officer, USS ARKANSAS (CGN-41)  
To: Director of Naval History (OP-09BH), Washington Navy Yard,  
Washington, D.C. 20374-0571

Subj: USS ARKANSAS' COMMAND HISTORY (1 JANUARY 1987-- 31 DECEMBER 1987) (U)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12D

Encl: (1) Change of Command Brochure  
(2) Welcome Aboard Book  
(3) "Gray Ghost of the Kamchatka Coast" Cruise Book  
(4) Welcome Aboard Pamphlet

1. (U) The USS ARKANSAS Command History and enclosures (1) through (4) are forwarded, in accordance with reference (a), for the period 1 January 1987 to 31 December 1987

2. ~~(C)~~ Command Composition and Organization. USS ARKANSAS (CGN-41) is the fourth Nuclear Powered Guided Missile Cruiser of the Virginia Class. Homeported in Alameda, California, she reports to Commander Destroyer Group FIVE. Captain H. E. Selfridge, commands a crew of 40 officers and 520 enlisted men. The mission of USS ARKANSAS is to operate offensively in the presence of air, surface, and subsurface threats, independently, or in support of convoys and high speed task forces.

3. ~~(C)~~ Chronological Sequence of Events

1 January-17 February	Inport NAS Alameda, CA.
27 January-29 January	NWAT(Nuclear Weapons Assistance Team)
17 February-26 February	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA ISE (Independent Steaming Exercises).
23 February-26 February	NPMITT(Nuclear Propulsion Mobile Training Team)
26 February-6 March	Inport NAS Alameda, CA.
6 March-12 March	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA ISE for ORSE (Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam)
12 March-27 March	Inport NAS ALAMEDA, CA. IMAV with USS SAMUEL GOMPERS. SMI(Supply Management Inspection). DNSI (Defense Nuclear Surety Inspection).
27 March-3 April	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA ISE, for CNO Project Tomahawk Test Launch.
3 April-27 April	Inport, NAS Alameda, CA.

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27 April-4 May	Underway, ISE enroute to Pearl Harbor, HI.
4 May-8 May	Inport, Pearl Harbor, HI.
16,17,20 and 21 May	Conducted exercises in international waters near the Soviet Kamchatka Peninsula.
8 June-16 June	Departed Kamchatka Peninsula enroute to Adak, AK.
16 June-17 June	Anchored, Adak, AK.
17 June-24 June	Underway, ISE enroute to Esquimalt, B.C.
24 June-28 June	Anchored, Esquimalt, B.C. for Victoria visit.
28 June-30 June	Underway, ISE enroute to NAS Alameda, CA.
30 June-27 July	Inport, NAS Alameda, CA.
24 July	Change of Command Ceremony - CAPT H.E. Selfridge relieves CAPT C.R. Twardy.
27 July-29 July	Underway, ISE enroute to Seattle, WA for SEATTLE SEA FAIR 1987.
29 July-4 August	Inport, Seattle, WA for SEATTLE SEA FAIR.
4 August	Underway, enroute to PSNS (Puget Sound Naval Shipyard).
4 August-7 August	Inport, PSNS, Bremerton, WA.
7 August-13 August	Underway, ISE enroute to Anchorage, AK.
13 August-16 August	Inport, Anchorage, AK.
16 August-21 August	Underway, ISE enroute to San Diego, CA.
21 August-24 August	Inport, San Diego, CA.
24 August-26 August	Underway, ISE, SOCAL OPAREA for CNO Project Tomahawk Test Launch.
26 August-21 September	Inport, NAS Alameda, CA.
21 September-25 September	Underway, ISE, SOCAL OPAREA for CNO Project Tomahawk Test Launch.
25 September-26 October	Inport NAS Alameda, CA. Commence CFC (Combined Federal Campaign) drive.

26 October-30 October	Underway, enroute to San Diego, CA.
30 October-2 November	Inport, San Diego, CA.
2 November-6 November	Underway, enroute to NAS Alameda, CA. NGFS (Naval Gunfire Support) at San Clemente Island.
6 November-7 December	Inport, NAS Alameda, CA.
7 December-8 December	Anchored San Francisco Bay for offload of weapons in preparation to enter COH (Complex Overhaul) on 18 January 1988.
8 December-10 December	Underway, enroute to San Diego, CA.
10 December	Inport, NAS North Island, CA.
10 December-17 December	Underway, SOCAL OPAREA for CNO project Tomahawk Test Launches.
17 December-31 December	Inport, NAS Alameda, CA.

#### 4. ~~(C)~~ Narrative of Major Events

a. (U) Record Setting Re-enlistments. In March 1987 ARKANSAS shattered our existing retention records in the "month" and "day" categories, when 19 crewmembers re-enlisted in one day, throughout the greater S.F. Bay Area, for a combined total of 107 obligated years of active service.

b. (U) Operational Reactor Safegaurds Examination (ORSE). On 12 March 1987 ARKANSAS outscored all other CGN's in the Pacific Fleet on the ORSE.

c. ~~(C)~~ Northern Pacific Operations. Between 1981 and 1985, U.S. Naval ships operated routinely off Petropavlovsk. In 1986, the Soviet Union made extended territorial water claims that in effect kept ships more than 36 nautical miles from the Soviet coast. The United States recognizes territorial seas to only 12 nautical miles. On 17 and 21 May 1987, ARKANSAS was tasked to proceed within the 36nm Soviet claimed territorial seas near the Kamchatka peninsula and conduct exercises in recognized international waters. ARKANSAS remained outside the 12nm U.S. recognized territorial waters, but inside the 36 nm claimed territorial waters. The Soviet Union protested the exercise and much publicity resulted.

d. (U) Change of Command. On 24 July 1987, Captain C.R. Twardy was relieved as Commanding Officer by Captain H.E. Selfridge. Captain H.E. Selfridge is serving as the fourth Commanding Officer of the USS ARKANSAS (CGN-41).

e. (U) Anchorage, Alaska Port Visit. The impeccable preservation and immense crew pride of ARKANSAS was evident in the port visit to Anchorage, Alaska 13-16 August 1987. Over 23,000 visitors toured the ship in two days. The positive reaction of the visitors to the tour guides and the cleanliness of



the ship was evident in several "thank you" letters addressed to ARKANSAS. Among the more notable guests was Congressman Udall of Arizona.

f. (U) Combined Federal Campaign. ARKANSAS conducted the ship's most successful Combined Federal Campaign ever. Between 15 October and 30 November, total contributions were received in excess of \$17,280.

g. (U) Command Inspection. ARKANSAS successfully completed a Commander Cruiser Destroyer Group FIVE Command Inspection on 24 November, 1987, with no significant discrepancies.

h. ~~(C)~~ CNO Project Test Platform for Tomahawk shots. ARKANSAS successfully served as a primary test platform for several Tomahawk Cruise Missile firings in 1987. Successful firings were conducted in April, September, and two firings were conducted in December 1987.

i. (U) Professional Development. During 1987 the Commanding Officer certified 7 Officers as Surface Warfare Officers, 19 personnel were designated as Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialists, and 5 officers were certified by the Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program as qualified to serve as Engineer Officer aboard a nuclear powered surface ship.

  
H. E. SELFRIDGE